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NEWS RELEASE

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Oregon Cities Turn to Traffic Safety Cameras to Help Enforce Law and Increase Road Safety

New video highlights the positive impact red light cameras are having on Oregon roads

Beaverton and nearly a dozen cities in Oregon are utilizing traffic safety cameras to catch red light runners, change driver behavior, and reduce red light running, speeding and crashes. A new video released by Red Flex Safety Systems, Inc. features interviews with and data from local police departments highlighting the success Oregon photo enforcement programs are having in increasing road safety. The video can be viewed online at <http://youtu.be/R7Vzh6ZRAUE>

"We can't be everywhere to enforce every intersection. The photo enforcement program is just one tool in our toolkit to help us keep people safe," says Lieutenant Adam Spang in the video, an 18-year veteran with the City of Beaverton Police Department.

A March 2001 survey of Beaverton residents showed red light running was ranked as the greatest traffic safety concern of city drivers and 85 percent indicated they were concerned about drivers not stopping for red lights in the city. The city decided to launch its traffic safety camera program shortly after to support the police department's efforts to crack down on red light running in the city and increase road safety. Since then, there has been an average 36 percent decrease in red light running and a 41 percent reduction in injury crashes at Beaverton intersections where red light cameras are present.

Peggy Porath, Beaverton's Red Light Photo Program Coordinator also notes in the video that she enjoys visiting with community residents to explain how the program works. Porath believes the program is "Bringing awareness to their driving and hopefully having an impact to change their behavior and make them a little safer."

The City of Fairview has had similar results according to Police Chief Ken Johnson who has been with the city for nearly a decade. Chief Johnson notes in the video the Department has seen a "35 percent decrease with citizens with local area codes committing red light violations, indicating to us in very clear terms we are making an impact and we are making the streets of this city safer."

When asked in the video if he has any final messages to residents of Fairview and other Oregon cities, Chief Johnson states, "Slow down. Drive defensively, not offensively. Stop for the red lights whether there's a camera there or not. Stop for the red lights and you will be a safer driver."

Under state law, cities utilizing traffic safety cameras are required to submit bi-annual reports citing crash and violation data. They are also required to engage in public information campaigns to ensure city residents are aware of camera programs and how they work.

Pulling from these bi-annual reports, the video also includes highlights from other Oregon cities also utilizing cameras with similar results. These include:

- **City of Albany:** 79% decrease in red light running at photo enforced intersections
- **City of Salem:** 33% reduction in traffic collisions at photo enforced intersections since 2008
- **City of Tualatin:** 23% reduction in red light running violations at photo enforced intersections from 2011 to 2012

To learn more about Oregon's traffic safety camera program and guidelines, visit the Oregon State Department of Transportation's website at http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/TRAFFIC-ROADWAY/docs/pdf/red_light_running_rlr_camera_guidelines.pdf.

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